

REMARKS

Applicants have carefully studied the outstanding Official Action. The present response is intended to be fully responsive to all points of rejection raised by the Examiner and is believed to place the application in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

In the application as examined, claims 1 - 59 and 88 - 130 are pending. Claims 60 - 87 and 131 - 149 have been cancelled previously.

In the present response, claims 1 - 59 and 88 - 130 are amended.

Claims 2 - 59 and 88 - 130 are objected to because of informalities. Applicants have amended claims 2 - 59 and 88 - 130 to overcome the objection.

Claims 1 - 59 and 88 - 130 stand rejected under the judicially created doctrine of non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 60 - 87 and 131 - 149 of U.S. Patent No. 7,599,757; 7,447,560 and 7,440,813, respectively.

A terminal disclaimer is being filed concurrently herewith to overcome the rejection.

Claims 1 - 27, 53 - 55, 59, 88 - 119, 121 - 123, 126 - 128 and 130 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Kou (U.S. Patent No. 6,778,878).

Kou describes an electronic component pick and place machine having a series of key readers adjacent its component holder receptacles.

The Examiner's indication of allowability of claims 28 - 52, 56 - 58, 120, 124 - 125 and 129 is noted with appreciation.

Claim 1 is amended to more clearly define the novel and inventive method of manufacturing electronic circuits of the present invention. Amended claim 1 includes the recitation "said employing said CAD data, said bill of materials and said approved component vendor list for automatically generating pick & place machine specific component data for governing the operation

of at least one specific pick & place machine including automatically generating said pick & place machine-specific component data by employing a first database containing pick & place machine-independent, geometric component data and a second database containing machine-specific, component manufacturer-independent rules for generating said pick & place machine-specific component data.” Support for the amendment to claim 1 is found, inter alia, in the specification as published (U.S. Published Patent Application No. 2009/0216357) in Figs. 3 and 4 and the description thereof, in paragraphs [0159]-[0178], and in paragraph [0032].

Applicants respectfully submit that Kou does not show or suggest the method of manufacturing electronic circuits of the present invention, as recited in amended claim 1, including, inter alia, automatically generating pick & place machine-specific component data by employing a first database containing pick & place machine-independent, geometric component data and a second database containing machine-specific, component manufacturer-independent rules for generating the pick & place machine-specific component data, and that amended claim 1 is therefore patentable.

Claim 88 is amended to more clearly define the novel and inventive apparatus for manufacturing electronic circuits of the present invention. Amended claim 88 includes the recitation “said computerized generator including a first database containing pick & place machine-independent, geometric component data and a second database containing machine-specific, component manufacturer-independent rules for generating said pick & place machine-specific component data.” Support for the amendment to claim 88 is found, inter alia, in the specification as published (U.S. Published Patent Application No. 2009/0216357) in Figs. 3 and 4 and the description thereof, in paragraphs [0159]-[0178], and in paragraph [0032].

Applicants respectfully submit that Kou does not show or suggest the apparatus for manufacturing electronic circuits of the present invention, as recited in amended claim 88, including, inter alia, a computerized generator including a first database containing pick & place machine-independent, geometric component data and a second database containing machine-specific, component manufacturer-independent rules for generating pick & place machine-specific

component data, and that amended claim 1 is therefore patentable.

Each of claims 2 - 59 depend directly or ultimately from claim 1 and is allowable.
Each of claims 89 - 130 depend directly or ultimately from claim 88 and is allowable.

Applicants reserve the right to pursue the claims as filed in the context of a continuation application.

In view of the foregoing, all of the claims are deemed to be allowable. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

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